GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:655
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2008
EMPLOYMENT TO WOMEN
Sarvey Shri Sathyanarayana

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether women are engaged in low productivity jobs in agriculture which aggravated the problem of women unemployment;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE(SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a) to (c): Yes, Sir. Rural women are engaged in agriculture sector mainly as agricultural labourers. According to 2001 Census, there are 42.95% female agricultural labourers as compared to 27.51 % male.

The government has taken several steps to empower women in agriculture by making special provisions for them under ongoing schemes/ programmes of DAC, MoA which include:

30% allocation for womenbeneficiaries under the scheme `Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States, Sikkim, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal and National Horticulture Mission`.

33 % allocation in `National Food Security Mission`.

30 % allocation in `Mini Mission −II of Technology Mission on Cotton`.

30 % allocation in `Mini Mission of Jute Technology Mission`.

30 % allocation in programmatic activities under `Support to States for Extension Reforms`.

Important provisions in favour of women have also been made under National Policy for Farmers launched in 2007, the details of which are given in Annexure − I.

Annexure - I
Policy provisions incorporated in the National Agriculture Policy on Farmers 2007 for empowering the women in farming and allied activities

a) Asset reforms will ensure that every farmer household in villages possesses and /or has access to productive asset like land, livestock, fish pond, homestead farm and/or income through enterprise and/or market-driven skills, so that the household income is increased substantially on a sustainable basis.

b) Training and capacity building centres are to impart training to fisher families and fisher women in all aspects of the capture/culture/consumption chain, quality literacy for hygienic handling and other aspects.

c) The research strategy of science and technology in agriculture is to be pro- nature, pro-small farmers and gender sensitive.

d) Promoting women friendly implements/tools for women farmers to reduce drudgery save time and enhance output.

e) Women working in the farms need appropriate support services like crÃ¨ches, child care centres, nutrition, health and training, etc. For funding such activities, existing schemes of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, the Ministry of Rural Development and the Ministry of Agriculture would be augmented and utilized and new schemes would be introduced, if required.

f) Kisan credit cards would be issued to women speedily with joint pattas for homestead/agricultural land. For the cases without joint pattas, indemnity bonds/guarantees from husband and relatives would be considered by the banks for extending credit and kisan credit cards to the women farmers.

g) The agriculture/ farm universities would restructure the curricula in a manner that gender roles in farming are recognized.

h) Increase in small farm productivity and creating multiple livelihood opportunities through crop-livestock integrated farming systems as well as agro- processing would be supported for increasing farmers` incomes.